

Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council Meeting
September 25, 2014
6:45-8:45

Start Time: 6:55pm

Attendees:

Wes Callender
Jim Kirkpatrick
Brian Foley
Frank Vajda
Dean Sherick
Mary Moon
Alan Potter
Tracey Serle
Dana Powers
James Sobecke
Tracy Friend
Peggy Drost
Tom Lambiase
Bowman Olds
Samantha Brann
Matt Lyttle
Bonnie O'Leary
Dave McKernan

Presentation by Tracy Friend, Volunteer Fairfax

Volunteer Fairfax is recruiting for a new VRC management team. It is meant to be a recovery team, not response. It will be training with the MRC, CERT, and others. One training a month, 15 hours per year of volunteering. Please consider joining and telling your friends. There is a flyer available from Tracy Friend for more information.

VF and FCIA have received a new grant to run another Summit. The size of the Summit was twice as big as the Roundup of 2012. Due to the great reception, VF has gotten a grant to do more district-focused event. Three districts will be piloting: Mason, Braddock, and Sully. Please see the Pilot Program hand out for more information. The Mason district will be the first week in December. There will be a Seminar in each district that will cover how each organization's activities change when a disaster happens. It will also discuss what VF and what the government does during a disaster. One of the outputs will be a database of community based organization and what their capabilities are. The National Exercise Program, a program within FEMA, will support the Mason District event with scenario design, facilitation, and evaluation. We will also be inviting police and fire to this event.

Question: Who will be invited to the exercise?

Faith based groups, community based groups, HOAs, PTAs, food pantries, shelters, and others with a role to play in disasters.

Question: Will staff from the Board of Supervisors be participating?

Yes, we will be working on a formal invite to each. We will also be speaking with Penny Gross next week.

Question: With reference to the VET group, does CERT training help get you in?

Yes, CERT trainings will count towards your training requirements yearly.

Question: What role is Volunteer Fairfax playing in the WPFG 2015?

VF has one staff member full time with the WPFG, and will most likely be adding another next year.

Question: What kind of exercise will it be?

It's going to be a discussion based tabletop exercise. It will also be held at night and a dinner will be provided.

Question: Where can we get more handouts for Homeowner's Associations?

Email Tracy Friend and she'll send you digital copies: tfriend@volunteerfairfax.org

Old Business:

Approval of July meeting minutes: approved at 8:12

Secretary position vacancy: there is a vacancy here. Matt Lyttle can serve informally, but we might want to look for someone more regularly. There is a suggestion to provide 3x5 cards to attendees to add comments or questions that should be in the minutes.

Ready, Set, Know AAR: Jim Sobecke greatly appreciates the support given by the planning group. The event went over very well. For a first-time event it was worthwhile. The idea was to do outreach in a different kind of format. We wanted to draw people in with games and a festival like atmosphere. In the end, we had 2571 individuals pass through the event (estimated). Let's go around the table and gets some "ups and downs" from council members who attended. If most found it positive we can probably get back into the Burke Center next year, or even expand the event to a second location.

Positives:

Well organized. A great event.

We achieved the objectives.

Great location.

Greeting people was appropriate

People liked seeing the different kinds of kits for kids and animals, etc. It was good for them to see that there are many ways to build your emergency kit.

Sharing info about Fairfax Alerts was a good touch.

The MadLibs were very well received. Great idea, Samantha!

The Zombie make up was great for teens, but not so great for small children.

The LDS church that brought 27 volunteers and cold water was fantastic. That was great.

People that walked through were truly talking about preparedness and absorbing the info, which is great.

Great collaboration between multiple organizations. MRC volunteers were excited to do an outreach event and work with other citizen corps programs.

Colocation with the police was great. It added another element to the event and allowed volunteers to learn about police volunteer programs.

We used the Volunteer Management System for this event. It was the first time OEM used it. 61 people signed up using that system which is great, but we could use a little more information on how to use it.

Suggestions/Negatives:

We could have done a better job branding the event as the Citizen Corps Council. It looked like a bunch of organizations, but not one CCC event.

We should have a set time to train volunteers, as opposed to a rolling introduction. We also need to work on creating a unified voice amongst our new volunteers. We needed a formal sign-in/sign-out process to keep people safe and accounted for.

If you didn't have a shirt with an organization on it, people were wary to engage in conversation.

It would have been great to get more Citizen Corps representation in the future.

There was some confusion inside with the activity stations. People thought there were 4 different activities, not just 4 tables. We'll have to think about that next year.

It would be great to have nametags for all volunteers, as well.

Adding multi-lingual volunteers would be good to have in the future.

We should consider promoting that people "ICE" their phones. You can get a sticker for free on line that allows you to leave your "in case of emergency" contact person. You can also put it in your wallpaper.

We had a weather-related injury, so we need to be careful of that.

There are many events like this across the county that we can take advantage of.

Giveaways are always positive and should be considered by all tables.

We should put something together to send to the board and OEM. It should cover best practices of the planning process and additional information to make it a better event.

Committee Updates

Outreach: See Ready, Set, Know

Grants: The 2014 grants should be coming out soon. They will be in your bank account after it's approved by the Board of Supervisors, which should happen in November. Shortly after that OEM will be looking at proposals and ideas. You'll see the money after projects have been selected.

Membership: Attendance tonight is great. There are 23 representatives in the room. We still need two more districts represented: Hunter Mill and Lee Districts. We'd still like to get representation from PTAs and the Girl Scouts.

Member Updates:

Dean Sherick, OEM: Thanks for showing up for the BOS proclamation of National Preparedness Month. Please look in your email for the Special Emergency Preparedness Briefing on Tuesday. There's also a Faith Communities Briefing on Tuesday. Both are downtown, but in two different locations. Oct 1 is the official move from the old alert system to Fairfax Alerts. Please move over if you haven't yet. Oct 11 is the Fire Station Open House. On October 16th is the Great Southeast Shakeout, an effort by VDEM to promote earthquake preparedness.

Wes Callender, Dranesville: There was a visitor from McLean in the last meeting who has become the Public Safety Liaison for the McLean Community Association. Patrick is the new contact for any emergency services agencies in that district. He organized a great Nat'l Prep. Month program on September 17th to include the fire chief, police chief, and others. See the After Action Report for more info. Perhaps we can do another similar event in Great Falls and other communities in Dranesville.

Jim Kirkpatrick, Springfield Dist: It's amazing how few people across the county aren't signed up for alerts. We should continue to promote that.

Brian Foley, Mason Dist: We put a bunch of Fairfax Alert pens at Foxfire Grill on Braddock and 236. They were used for signing credit card bills and went very fast.

Shawn Stokes, Fire Corps: On Gallows Road there's a traffic sign that promotes Fairfax Alerts on Gallows Road.

Mary Moon, ARES: There was a big work party on Saturday, sending operators to various locations across the county to test certain frequencies.

Alan Potter, Providence Dist: We passed out Fairfax Alert flyers and the previous knowledge rate was about 50/50.

Tracey Serle, MRC volunteer: We've had a lot of volunteerism over the past month, plus some additional volunteer applications. It was a busy month.

Dana Powers, CERT: Congrats on a successful Ready, Set, Know. The past few months, we also had CERTCON in Prince George's County, but Fairfax Co. CERT members seemed to be running the place. CERT participated in the zombie apocalypse here in Fairfax and yesterday in Loudoun. We are now doing a CERT class for pet owners. We'll be doing outreach over the next month and we'll have the Boy Scouts at the training academy while it's empty. We're doing a class at the McLean center and two at the fire academy, another in Burke. We're having low

enrollment with the County Volunteer Management System. The feedback is that the system is cumbersome and intrusive.

James Sobecke, Braddock Dist: We're going to create a public safety liaison in Braddock Dist. There are 13 people signed up for the CERT class in our district. Jim is teaching it. Jim listened to a FEMA webinar for the National Neighborhood Watch. The logo is changing, and the funding is now coming from the National Sheriff's Association.

Tracy Friend, Volunteer Fairfax: We did an outreach event at Fort Belvoir, Health and Human Services, and George Mason University. We handed out the Fairfax Alert flyers. We also spoke with the Episcopal Diocese of VA and promoted Citizen Corps. There have been several outreach events. We are working on the STEP project to do school-based emergency management. There are a lot of great resources going into the STEP backpacks this year, which is great.

Peggy Drost and Tom Lambiase, FCIA: Look for more information on the Summit follow up events. We are recruiting for another class of Fairfax County Chaplain Corps.

Rick Panino, Red Cross: nothing tonight

Bowman Olds, LEPC: Our membership now includes Prince William and Alexandria LEPCs. Our main goal is to enhance the Public Private Partnerships across the county. We are working with Business Emergency Response Teams.

Mark Mitchell, Volunteer Coordinator for PD: We're looking for additional participants for the Fairfax PD volunteer Program. The police department still provides along for citizens. Just go to your local station and fill out the ride along form.

Neighborhood Watch: nothing today.

Samantha Brann, MRC: We staffed a TDAP clinic recently. We provided vaccines, because it's a requirement for 6th grade. We didn't have as many people sign up as we had hoped. That was because kids were there without a parent or guardian. We are revisiting the best way to do that in the future. The idea is to avoid last minute vaccinations or kids being denied in school. We did a notification drill using the Volunteer Alerts in the Fairfax Alerts system and we had a 91% response rate. We'll use the same system to interact with volunteers during the Great Shakeout. We will be distributing over 500 doses of flu vaccines over the next month.

There are confirmed cases of the Enterovirus in VA, but Samantha does not have an update for here in Fairfax.

Bonnie O'Leary, NVRC for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons: Nothing to report.

Dave McKernan, OEM: There's a lot going on right now, but thank you for supporting the Fairfax Alerts system. The whole region changed to this system, and Fairfax County is far and away the best implemented.

Jim Sobecke: Can we put some brochures in the district supervisor's offices? Is there a set list of brochures from CCC members that we can display around the county? We also need to boost awareness of CCC amongst other organizations in the county. Perhaps they don't need to attend, but they should know what we talk about and who represents them at CCC. One group in particular is senior villages.

Proposed next speaker: World Police and Fire Games 2015.

Meeting adjournment: 8:15